

THE Organized FARMER

Vol. 22



September, 1962

No. 9

Your President's Report:

How busy are we hunting for straw "dummies"!

Real issues:

How much is a good farm organization worth?

How to help 3/4 million farmers fit into Canada's total society?

On August the 10th my wife, the two youngest and myself decided to try out the new Roger's Pass highway and visit my wife's parents in Kelowna. We got as far as Banff and we had to return home because I had developed a "none functioning gall bladder", whatever that is. Nothing very serious happened except that in the next two weeks I had an opportunity to read more than has been usual in the past four or five years.

It was during this period that the Russians had their two astronauts circling the earth. It was shortly after an American failure to successfully launch a "Venus Shot". On August 13th, one of the Vancouver daily papers had two editorials on the same page.

The first one rather reluctantly congratulated the Russians on their "Space Effort" and tempered it by the comment that the Russian people had to suffer because they were doing without the good things in life so the government could spend all or most of its resources developing space flight. The people in the Western World were putting less effort into space flight and the people were benefiting by having motor cars, etc.

The next editorial was an expression of horror at our tremendous "Slaughter on our Highways." Of course my immediate reaction was to question, just what is it we have that is so much more wonderful than what the Russians have?"

Straw Dummies

I have never tried to make any kind of analysis of what is happening in Russia because I know absolutely nothing about it. Furthermore I think we have enough problems at home to look after without spending our time worrying about the problems of someone else. I also think we have the know how and the brains here to do the job if we have a mind to do something about it. I thought these editorials were so typical of the way we try to do something about it. We spend most of our time hunting for "straw dummies" to knock down so we won't have to get down to the serious business of facing up to the real issues in life.

A short time before the incident I have related above, my daughter informed me one evening that she had been talking to a gentleman who disagreed with my ideas. He he said, "I was too far left." Here we go again, another "straw man". If they can classify me, (and it doesn't particularly matter whether I am classified as right, left or middle) then they need not go any further. They can spend their time knocking me (the straw man)

down into oblivion, then dust off their hands and say, "that was a job well done."

Something Has To Be Done

Now I don't particularly mind being used as a "straw man" but I do object to being used as an excuse for doing nothing. I don't want to be used as an excuse for not making any changes either in our lives or in the way we do things. This holds true in the field of farming and farm organization as well as national and international affairs. I wish we could view our whole society as the Vancouver Sun in its editorial on August 17th said, when it referred to "The US Committee for National Trade Policy" (which opposes U.S. efforts to restrict B.C. lumber imports). "Its voice is that of cool sanity and we wish it could be heard more often."

Oh! how simple it is to be cool and sane when we see it through our own biased eyes.

So we go blithely onward, setting up "left" against "right", "welfare state" against "private enterprise", "communism" against "capitalism", always looking to what happens to "me," never to what happens to "us," never seeming to realize that it is only when most of us are well off that any of us can continue to have any of the really good things in life.

(Continued on page 2, col. 1)

MEMBERSHIPS GALORE WAITING TO BE PICKED UP

In about two months the Membership Drive 1963 will be under way. The organization will call again upon those who in the past have so often done their share — and more than their share. We trust that they will be willing to help again, but we also hope that this year many more will give a hand to do the strictly necessary and very valuable work of canvassing. It isn't quite right that only a few should carry the load. The F.U.A. is working for everyone of its members and for the whole farming community of this province. For that reason the services of four or five times the regular number of canvassers should be available. Jr. F.U.A., F.U.A. and F.W.U.A. should closely work together to achieve the goal of the Membership Drive: Every farmer in Alberta in 1962 visited by an F.U.A. canvasser.

A very recent survey, undertaken in different parts of the province has shown that many, and I really mean many, farmers are willing to join the F.U.A. However, nobody visited them and no local ever contacted them.

Sub-district directors will be in charge of the organizing of the canvass. Honestly, in the com-

ing month their jobs can't be valued too high. Also, it isn't asking too much to request any kind of assistance they are entitled to to make a success of the drive.

In the upcoming drive it will be stressed that life memberships year memberships at \$10.00. It are available at \$100.00 and two is possible that in the Annual Con-

Talks picked up on the road . . .

Here is only one short idea which we have heard in different form when talking with F.U.A. members. They didn't express policy, but apparently it expresses the thinking of many, and may set others to think about it.

ON MEMBERSHIP

We spend a scandalous amount of time and energy year after year to get the membership in. Solutions are:

1. Life memberships.

2. Pay now the dues for a two-year membership.

Don't let us start discussing other ideas, we can do that later. Discussing doesn't help us a bit, let us now really DO something and take out at least a

TWO YEAR MEMBERSHIP.



Left to right—Standing, Diane Gorgichuk, Eaglesham, graduate from Fairview Camp; Barry Haryett, Edmonton, graduate from Edmonton Camp; Mrs. Kay Dowhaniuk, F.U. & C.D.A. Director. Seated, Wilson, Loree, Parkland, graduate from Gold Eye Camp; and Romeo Lauzon, La Corey, graduate from Vermilion.

One top student was chosen from each of the four F.U. & C.D.A. Rural Young People's Camps to attend the Graduate Co-op School Seminar at the University of Saskatchewan. Scholarships were provided by the Co-operative Fire and Casualty and the Co-operative Life Insurance Co.

COMPARE ONTARIO WITH ALBERTA

What does an Ontario farmer pay for power? He doesn't pay line cost. He doesn't pay a service charge. For 300 KWH per month his bill reads:

60 KWH @ 4.5c \$2.70
180 KWH @ 2.6c 4.68
60 KWH @ 1.5c .90

\$8.28

Less discount .82

Net total \$7.46

What must an Alberta farmer pay for the same 300 KWH? Here is his bill:

300 KWH @ 2c \$6.00
Service charge 3.50
(Canadian Utilities) 9.50

Interest on line cost
\$1050 @ 5% 4.37

Net total \$13.87

Mrs. A. N. Thorssen Passed Away

Word has just been received at FUA Head Office of the death on August 13 of Mrs. A. N. Thorssen of Mossleigh, at the age of 86. Mrs. Thorssen was one of the devoted and faithful members of the Arrowwood FWUA and of the former UFWA.

I met her first in 1934 at a UFA rally in High River. Since then we frequently met at Annual Conventions. She was a small, quiet, soft-spoken little lady, who seldom spoke, but who had a very great loyalty to the organization and to the farm people whom it served. To her, the FUA was as much part of the farm as the land or the tractor.

The Arrowwood local FWUA has suggested contributing in her memory, a sum to be used toward buying a piano for the Jr. Camp at Gold Eye Lake. I can think of no more fitting tribute. Loyalty such as Mrs. Thorssen displayed deserves to be remembered.

—WJH

Ticket Sale

Our educational program of Gold Eye Lake Camp has to be finished. Have you already sold all your tickets? If not, now is the time to do the selling job.

Gold Eye Lake Camp needs your support, as it will be a valuable rallying point for all the members.

FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

9934 - 106 St., Edmonton, Alta
Phone: GA 4-0375
After 5:00 p.m.: HU 9-6955

The Organized Farmer

EDITOR ED NELSON

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HOW TO HELP FARMERS FIT INTO SOCIETY

(Continued from page 1)

Two Major Discussions

Between now and next December, much will be written and much will be said about farm organization in Alberta and in Canada. At each of the Farm Union conventions this year, each provincial organization will decide whether they wish to become part of a National Farm Union, properly constituted and with delegate status. If the farmers in each of these provinces make their decisions based on the best interests of all farmers, I have no fears for the outcome. If, however, partisan thinking and partisan bias is allowed to become the governing factor, then we shall have gained nothing. What we must bear in mind is that there are less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million farmers left in Canada. These farmers are carrying on their business in a country of nearly 19 million. Furthermore they are carrying on a diversified business that at times seems to be in conflict, one farmer with another, cattleman against grain grower, etc. These conflicts are superficial and can be overcome in the best interest of all if

we let "the voice of cool sanity" prevail.

In our studies of these matters in the next two or three months, I hope we can make two major decisions—

1. What a good organization is worth and how much we are willing to pay for it.
2. The kind or type of organization that is most likely to help those $\frac{3}{4}$ million farmers fit into Canada's total society and give those same farmers an income equal to that of other groups in that society.

I hope that out of it will come a national organization that can discuss and analyze such issues as price supports, marketing, public or private utilities, trade matters, in an objective manner so there will no longer be any need to classify the organizations as to "right" or "left", "liberal" or "conservative".

I hope that when we talk about such things as public versus private power in Alberta, it will be based on what type of power project will best serve Albertans and not based on hate campaigns against individuals and companies.

I hope we can think of taxes as part of our total social operation and that we are the people who must decide how much taxes we need and how they are to be collected. I hope we can decide how much and how far we need to go in welfare plans and work.

If we can build that kind of organization we will have made a real contribution to building a better province, a better country. If we can help to plan and initiate positive action without fear of classification we will have provided the best help to government in Canada no matter what political stripe that government is.

Millbank FUA Local

The regular monthly meeting of the Millbank Local No. 518 was held August 4, with a very good attendance of members. After the business was cleared away and convention report given by Joe Burki, Mrs. Bridges gave a very informative talk on Freezing and Canning. Then the draw was made for the Raffle that the local had undertaken . . . the lucky winner being Mr. Bud Byram of Drayton Valley. The winner had a choice of 100 lbs of choice wrapped beef or \$60.00 in cash. The local realized \$126.00 for Club funds with this raffle. The evening ended with a wiener roast.

Don't be caught sleeping on the big day.

WHICH DAY?

Read the next issues of The Organized Farmer.

FARM BONUS PLAN FOR FARMERS

Announced by Co-operative Fire & Casualty Co.

Co-op Fire and Casualty representatives throughout Alberta.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES

The F.U. & C.D.A. has partially completed work in a social and economic survey in F.U.A. Districts 1, 4, 5 and 9. Mr. H. G. Puffer, an Agrologist formerly with the Settlement Division of the Immigration Branch, is conducting these studies. He has had considerable experience in conducting surveys for the Federal Government and has a keen interest in the welfare of rural people.

This is the first time that a study of this nature has been conducted in Alberta and the resulting documents and reports will provide a basis for developing a program for local rural people.

Among its many features, the plan provides:

1. A "continuous policy" — there is no expiry date. This eliminates the chance of the policy lapsing through an oversight on the part of the farmer — gives him continuous protection.
2. All coverage grouped under one policy with just one premium with resulting savings and no costly overlapping of gaps in the farmer's insurance protection.
3. "Automatic pick-up" of existing policies to allow the farmer to combine his policies now rather than waiting until they all expire.
4. A newly designed policy — easier to read and easier to understand.

Protection offered by the plan is complete with coverage such as fire, explosion, smoke damage, falling objects, impact by vehicle on all buildings and contents; all risk and residence glass on farm dwelling buildings; all risk personal property floater and broad householder rider on all farm dwelling contents; all risk coverage on farm equipment and grain; farm produce; farmer's comprehensive liability; employer's liability; voluntary compensation for injuries to employees and damage to property; voluntary medical payments; animal collision; accident insurance.

Commenting on the Farm Bonus Plan, R. T. Halen, Manager of the Alberta branch of the Company said, "We felt there was a real need for an all-comprehensive package plan that carefully considered the needs of the farmer and the nature of his operation. We believe we have the answer in the Co-op Farm Bonus Plan."

The Co-op Farm Bonus Plan, which goes into effect immediately, will be serviced by the many

It is also hoped that this study will focus attention on the real needs in rural areas and that ultimately the human and economic resources of the community may be better used to the best advantage of all.

Mr. Puffer has divided the study into two separate projects. (1) There will be a complete listing of the rural type organizations and government agencies serving rural people. The purpose and objectives of these organizations and agencies will be compiled and this is being followed up by a factual survey of the fieldmen and persons responsible for implementing these programs at a local level.

(2) This phase of the study will include a systematic opinion of local farmers and voluntary leaders, to determine what they believe are the social and economic needs of their District.

Every effort will be made to have the results of this study available by October 1st.

BE PREPARED FOR THE DAY DRAWS NEAR . . .

Read this and the next issues of the ORGANIZED FARMER very carefully



CO-RAL Livestock Insecticide

Spray your beef cattle this fall. CO-RAL is seasonal now. It is a new positive control for warble grubs and lice. CO-RAL gives higher grade beef, healthier animals, better weight gains and more profit per head. Get yours from your nearest U.F.A. Co-op Farm Supply Centre, where you know the price will be lowest.

Detailed literature on CO-RAL has gone out to all persons on the direct mailing list of U.F.A. Co-op. If you didn't get this, contact your nearest Farm Supply Centre asking to be put on the mailing list.

Literature has also gone out on Ethylene Glycol Anti-freeze, W-W Cattle Chutes and W-W Calf Cradles.

Mail enquiries to U.F.A. CO-OP FARM SUPPLY DIVISION at any of the addresses below:

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LET EVERY MEMBER, WHETHER DISTRICT DIRECTOR OR MEMBER OF A LOCAL, START MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR THE BIG EVENT COMING UP. THE ORGANIZED FARMER WILL INFORM YOU IN TIME.

FUA -- A Force To Be Reckoned With

In our August issue we published some impressions received when visiting district conventions. One of them was that apparently many people believe that the FUA should be and could be a Santa Claus for its members. It was shown that the FUA, nor any other organization, can ever be a Santa Claus. Another impression was that any value received from an organization *over and above* a membership fee can only come from voluntary contributions by some people. The values received by the members have exceeded by far the value of the fees. To take the voluntary contributions from some people for granted is not the right way of doing things in an organization. The third impression concerned the talk about compulsory membership, without full realization of the contributions to be made to any compulsory scheme in order to bring about desired results. The fourth one dealt with the (unnecessary) fear of change and the desire to retain traditions, though these traditions may have lost what values and usefulness they had.

Today we publish the remainder of the talk with Mr. Nelson, president of the F.U.A. The following points showed up:

1. A noticeable lack of people willing to stand for office.
2. Many members are more really and honestly interested in the F.U.A. and the work being done than appears to those living with their heads in the clouds or hiding in a gopher hole, sticking their head out just long enough to let a few horrible squeaks go.
3. The F.U.A. is a force to be reckoned with.
4. District conventions — as our annual conventions — are still run along the same line as in the past. Improvements are possible.

Question—When I read the reports of the district conventions I was a little bit amazed that there were apparently in some conventions difficulties finding candidates for office. Do you consider this a sign of healthy organizational life?

Answer—I would stress the following points in regard to this question:

1. I was very much impressed by a noticeable lack of people willing to stand for office, and I don't consider this at first glance to be a sign of excellent organizational health. However, there are some considerations which can go a long way to explain the situation.

(a) An officer is doing a good job, and members want him to stay on. No other candidates are nominated and the officer is re-elected by acclamation.

(b) Members having the ability but lacking the time and/or the money they consider necessary for doing a good job, refuse to let their name stand for nomination.

(c) Feeling of members that they lack the necessary leadership talents.

The last two considerations can give reasons for worry. Doing a good job costs time and in many cases money. Members must realize that there are limits to the demand made of our officers. Many of them work hard, give their talents and their time, without asking or expecting any reward for it. They also spend money out of their own pockets, for example on trips made for the organization. If the true total amount of miles driven by officers on organizational business would be charged to the FUA, there is a chance that the organization would be broke in a short time. There is no need to discuss this point now, but it is worth thinking about.

Same Problems

There could be, rightly or wrongly, a feeling of lacking in leadership talents. Without facts or figures available there is no

need to pursue this point any further than to repeat the statement that the FUA also has a task in the field of leadership education.

I would like to add to all this, that the FUA isn't in a position any different from that of all other organizations. Many of them have the same or related problems, and these organizations are trying to find a solution exactly as the FUA is trying to find it. This solution is being found in joint action through FU & CDA.

Question—Hasn't there been more interest in the District Conventions than in the years before?

Answer—General attendance was up, and I had the strong feeling that more people were genuinely interested in the FUA. That was a sign of very good health. It is possible that farmers begin to realize better the need of organizing and the necessity of actively supporting their organization. The FUA does not exist for the pleasure of a few people who like the "glory of office", but to fight the farmers' battle for their place under the sun. Looking back at what the FUA has achieved during the years, the organization can be proud of its record.

Every Farmer Profited

Question—From your last remarks I conclude that you consider the FUA a force to be reckoned with?

Answer—I sure do. Our record gives better proof of what we have accomplished than anything else. Every farmer in Alberta has profited from the work done by the FUA. It is time to clearly recognize this. Perhaps we should have raised the trumpet more often and don't let anybody fool himself about a future with less problems than we have now. More and more problems will show up and they will be more complex than those we have today. The FUA will do the best it can to find solutions for all of them.

Membership

In the past we have shown to be a force to be reckoned with, and it is still the same today. Our membership was a little bit lower than in 1961, but on the whole it has kept up very well, taking into consideration that the

farm population doesn't increase but decreases. We thank all those who have worked hard to reach this result, but we would like to do better in the next membership drive. We hope that every member will try to add at least one new name to our membership files.

Question—Have the district conventions always been organized on the same basic pattern?

Answer—I don't dare to say yes or no, but in each case for quite some years roughly the same pattern has been followed.

Something Different?

Question—Don't you think that something different should be done once in a while? I'm thinking about the fraternal greetings for example which in some cases take up quite some time. Wouldn't it be possible to change that part

of the program somewhat? The fraternal delegates could be welcomed by the chairman and given the right of the floor if the necessity of their expert advice would show up. The time gained could be used for a short panel discussion, showing a film, or a discussion on a subject of special importance to the district or part of it, and so on.

Answer—Everything we do can be done better next time. Our annual convention has been run along the same lines for quite a number of years. This year we will try to bring some changes, and await how they will be received by the membership. Every district board has to make its own decisions, and I know them well enough to be sure that they will make changes when they consider them necessary.

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(Please say you saw it in The Organized Farmer)

YOU GOT IT THROUGH THE WORK OF THE F.U.A. YOU GOT IT THROUGH THE WORK OF THE F.U.A. UOY

From Which of These A

Do

The FUA Was Instrumental In Getting T

1. PURPLE GAS IN FARM TRUCKS:

You may now use purple gas in your farm truck thanks to the work of the Farmers' Union of Alberta. This means a substantial saving to you, which you are making year after year. You may have forgotten about it, but . . .

You got it through the work of the F.U.A.

2. CASH ADVANCES ON FARM STORED GRAIN

These cash advances have been a big help to many farmers. When the Farmers' Union of Alberta wouldn't have fought for it and fought hard, the farmers might have been in big financial trouble. Remember:

You got it through the work of the F.U.A.

3. DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS ON HOGS & SHEEP

Another big help to farmers, because it has resulted in better market prices. You may not think about it anymore, you may even have forgotten it completely, but you have profited from it and will profit from it. Realize for one moment:

You got it through the work of the F.U.A.

4. ACREAGE PAYMENTS

We don't even dare to make a guess how much help acreage payments have been to the farmers of Alberta. Did you get them out of the blue?

You got it through the work of the F.U.A.

5. P.F.R.A. COVERAGE

The coverage offered by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act has been extended to all areas of Western Canada. This was not done without a fight by the Farmers' Union of Alberta. Therefore, don't forget:

You got it through the work of the F.U.A.

6. F.U.A. CAR INSURANCE POOL

There is even an F.U.A. Car Insurance Pool, and it works to the advantage of the farmer. Last year it paid members 7% dividend applicable on insurance renewals. A nice dividend, and

You got it through the work of the F.U.A.

7. INCOME TAX SERVICE, LEGAL ADVICE

Every year we receive hundreds of letters

YOU GOT IT THROUGH THE WORK OF THE F.U.A.

YOU GOT IT THROUGH THE WORK OF THE F.U.A.

YOU GOT IT THROUGH THE WORK OF THE F.U.A. YOU GOT IT THROUGH THE WORK OF THE F.U.A. UOY

YOU GOT IT THROUGH THE WORK OF THE F.U.A. YOU GOT IT THROUGH THE WORK OF THE F.U.A.

Achievements . . .

You Profit The Most?

them For You And All Of Your Neighbors

from members who want to make use of our Income Tax Service, who want help in presenting a case to a Government Board, legal advice, and so on. Using these services you can truthfully say that . . .

You got it through the work of the F.U.A.

8. 1961-1962 FEED SHORTAGE

You all know about the drought situation in the south-eastern part of the province during the last few years. The F.U.A., and especially the F.U.A. officers in the districts concerned, have been very active to find ways of helping those suffering from the drought. These officers were successful and their work has been appreciated very much. Without the F.U.A. it is doubtful whether any other organization would have put so much time and effort into helping those that were in need. Remember that the F.U.A. has always worked for the farmer, and benefits received . . .

You got it through the work of the F.U.A.

Without any trouble we could make a list of 50 very valuable achievements which have affected your farm operations in a profitable way. You got them through the work of the F.U.A., because the F.U.A. is working for the farmers of Alberta. Don't think that all these things have been accomplished by sleight of hand. For all of them an uphill battle had to be fought. The F.U.A. case had to be presented time and time again. Sometimes proposals were accepted as made by the F.U.A., but quite often changes were made which the organization considered not to be in the best interests of the farmers. This shows that there is still work to be done, and looking into the future so many problems are already shaping up, that our list of achievements as of today will look small and unimportant.

All these problems will affect you and your children. A solution, suitable to the farmers of Alberta must be found, and you and your children must take an active part in finding such a solution and making the decisions because your future and theirs will be vitally influenced by them. Let your voice be heard. Become a member of the FUA, FWUA, Jr. FUA.

JOIN THE F.U.A.

YOU GOT IT THROUGH THE WORK OF THE F.U.A.

YOU GOT IT THROUGH THE WORK OF THE F.U.A.

YOU GOT IT THROUGH THE WORK OF THE F.U.A.

YOU GOT IT THROUGH THE WORK OF THE F.U.A.



Who Is Joe Lazenby

Chances are you will never see or meet Joe Lazenby, but if you deliver your grain to a U.G.G. elevator, Joe is protecting your interests.

As Chief Grain Inspector for United Grain Growers, Joe acts as a liaison between farmers and the Board of Grain Commissioners. He checks grades every car of grain that goes through Winnipeg to the Lakehead . . . and in case of a dispute on grade, Joe is the man who negotiates on your behalf with the Board's inspectors.

Joe and his staff of four provide another service: you and your agent can call on them anytime to help out on those hard-to-grade samples. In some years, his Grain Sampling Department has advised on 20,000

samples. During harvest time, Joe and his staff work on borderline samples from dawn to dusk . . . as long as there is north light to grade by. And his advice gets to your agent quickly — by telegram!

Joe knows farmers' problems. He was a U.G.G. agent for 14 years. Then, after passing the Board of Grain Commissioners' inspector exams, he moved into the U.G.G. Grain Sampling Department. With that background, he's in a wonderful position to instruct agents at in-service training schools on the newest standards in grading.

Joe Lazenby is one reason why you will find it pays to haul your grain to United Grain Growers. People like Joe, your U.G.G. agent, and

everyone at United Grain Growers are there to work with you and to help you in any way they can.

You will find that United Grain Growers is a farmers' company in every sense of the word . . . and operates in a business-like way. It was started by farmers. The voting stock can only be obtained by farmers. And farmers are the only people who have a say in U.G.G. management. The sole object of the company is to handle your grain and farm supplies and protect your interests.

The Farmer's Company—

**United
Grain
Growers**